CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A therapeutic agent ~~having a destructive effect on malignant tumors~~ which comprises as therapeutically effective ingredients: alpha-ketoglutaric acid or its pharmaceutically effective salts and at least one compound promoting azomethine ~~solution~~ formation in an enzyme independent reaction and selected from the group consisting of 5-hydroxymethyl-furfural, dehydroascorbic acid, malt and vanillin, whereby the mass ratio of the ketoglutaric acid to the at least azomethine formation promoting compound is greater than 1:1 wherein the therapeutic agent contains as further therapeutically effective ingredients: N-acetyl-seleno-L-methionine and N-acetyl-L-methionine whereby the latter is present in excess with respect to the former.

2. (previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 1 characterized in that the mass ratio of alpha-ketoglutaric acid to N-acetyl-seleno-L-methionine is 100:1 to 20000:1.

3. (previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein the mass ratio of N-acetyl-seleno-L-methionine is 20:1 to 300:1.

4. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein it further comprises glucose, fructose or a mixture thereof.

5. (Currently amended) The therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein the compound promoting ~~azomethionine~~ azomethine formation is 5-hydroxymethylfurfural.

6. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 1, wherein it is put up in an aqueous solution and the N-acetyl-seleno-L-methionine is present in an amount of 1.4 to 2.3 mg/l and the N-acetyl-L-methionine is present in an amount of 70 to 230 mg/l.

7. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 4 wherein it contains an electrolyte from the group of sodium or potassium.

8. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein it is administered intravenously and has a pH value of 4 to 6.

9. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 4 or claim 7 wherein the alpha-ketoglutaric acid is present in a concentration of 3 to 20 g/l, the compound promoting azomethionine formation is 5-hydroxymethylfurfural present in a concentration of 1 to 3 g/l, the glucose is present in a concentration of 20 to 100 g/l, the sodium ion is present in a concentration of 60 to 160 mmol/l and the potassium ion is present in a concentration of 15 to 40 mmol/l.

10. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 9 wherein the alpha-ketoglutaric acid is present in a

concentration of 6 to 16 g/l, 5-hydroxymethylfurfural is present in a concentration of 1 to 2.5 g/l, the glucose in a concentration of 20 to 50 g/l, the sodium ion in a concentration of 70 to 160 mmol/l and the potassium ion is present in a concentration of 20 to 40 mmol/l.

11. (previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 1 which is put up in a solid or liquid or oral or rectal administration dosage form which contains the ketoglutaric acid at least in part in the form of a monosodium or monopotassium salt thereof.

12. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 11 which further comprises a lubricating agent and/or extender and/or a taste improving disaccharide.

13. (Previously presented) The therapeutic agent according to claim 11 which comprises in the dosage unit 3 to 9 g of alpha-ketoglutaric acid, 0.5 to 1.5 g 5-hydroxymethyl-furfural, 1.4 to 2.3 mg N-acetyl-seleno-L-methionine and 70 to 230 mg of N-acetyl-L-methionine.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of making a therapeutic agent in a form suitable for intravenous administration according to claim 8 wherein the alpha-ketoglutaric acid is dissolved at elevated temperature in distilled water which has had its oxygen content reduced by a gasification and glucose or fructose added to it together with alkalies other than ammonia or amines, the pH being adjusted to be

somewhat above 4 and N-acetyl-seleno-L-methionine, N-acetyl-L-methionine and the compound promoting azomethine formation.

15. (withdrawn) A method of making a preparation suitable for oral or rectal administration according to claim 11 wherein to adjust the pH from 3 to 6 the ketoglutaric acid is partly to entirely used in the form of its monosalt with sodium and/or potassium and in which extenders and if desired also disaccharides are mixed therewith and to this mixture the compound promoting azomethine formation, the N-acetyl-seleno-L-methionine and the N-acetyl-L-methionine are added whereupon the mixture is put up in the desired form of administering especially as a particule granulate, in tablets, or in an irrigating liquid.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (withdrawn) A cytocidal method of treating a malignant tumor in a patient afflicted with said malignant tumor which comprises the step of administering to said patient, an amount of the therapeutic agent defined in claim 1, effective to treat the malignant tumor.

19. (withdrawn) The cytocidal method of treating a malignant tumor defined in claim 18 wherein the therapeutic agent is administered to the patient orally, rectally, in the form of an irrigation, or as an intravenous infusion.

20. (withdrawn) The cytocidal method of treating a malignant tumor defined in claim 19 wherein the therapeutic agent is administered to the patient as an intravenous infusion.

21. (Currently amended) A therapeutic agent ~~for the cytocidal treatment of a malignant tumor~~ administrable as an intravenous infusion, which consists essentially of:

alpha-ketoglutaric acid	6 - 16 g/l
5-hydroxymethylfurfural	1.0 - 2.5 g/l
N-acetyl-seleno-L-methionine	1.4 - 2.3 mg/l
N-acetyl-L-methionine	70 - 230 mg/l
glucose	20 - 50 g/l
sodium ion	70 - 160 mmol/l and
potassium ion	20 - 40 mmol/l

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable inert carrier suitable for intravenous administration.

22. (withdrawn) A cytocidal method of treating a malignant tumor in a patient afflicted with said malignant tumor which comprises the step of administering to said patient, by intravenous infusion, an amount of the therapeutic agent defined in claim 21, effective to treat the malignant tumor.